

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C): Luke 10:25–37

Brothers and sisters,

The readings of this 15th Sunday in ordinary time invite us to rediscover the heart of our faith, a faith that is near, accessible, and lived out in love. They invite us to reflect on how we can choose life, trust in Christ, and become true neighbors to those in need.

The first reading from the book of Deuteronomy is part of Moses' final speech to the people of Israel before they enter the Promised Land. Moses reminds them that faithfulness to God's commandments is the only way that will lead them to life and blessing in the Promised Land. He emphasizes that God's commandments are not distant or impossible to follow. He reminds them that the law of God is not a burden, but a gift, a way of life that aligns the people with God's desire for Justice, Love, and Mercy. This means that obedience to the Commandments of God is not about conformity to rules, but about transformation of our hearts.

- We are challenged not only to listen to the Word, but to speak and to live it. The question is not: "Can we do it?" but "Will we choose it?" For the Word is already near. We need only to say YES.

The second reading is a wonderful hymn celebrating the supremacy of Jesus. The historical context of this letter shows us the time the Colossians were facing confusion about spiritual powers and cosmic forces, and in that situation, Paul proclaims that Jesus Christ is above all. He is the visible image of the invisible God, meaning that He reveals the God's nature in a very visible form.

- We are challenged to examine where we place our trust. Are we allowing Jesus Christ to be the head of our lives as He is for the Church?

In the Gospel, Jesus is asked a very important question by a lawyer, a scholar: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" The man knows the Law, but still seeks to know more. Then He asked: "Who is my neighbor?"

Jesus responds not with rules, but with a story, that changes the question: a man is beaten, robbed, and left half dead. A Priest and a Levite, both religious, see him, but pass by. Why? Perhaps they were thinking of their responsibilities at the Temple, or the ritual impurity they might contract. They were so confused on themselves, their duties, their reputations, and maybe their safety.

Then comes a Samaritan, the one who according to the culture was considered as the enemy of the Jews, who was despised by them. Yet he is the one who sees, stops, helps, and sacrifices. He becomes the unexpected example of Mercy.

Jesus ends with a challenge: "Go and do likewise"

This parable reveals the core of Christian spirituality, that the way to eternal life is not found by perfecting ourselves or clinging to our religious identity ALONE (Identity is OK, but not enough), but in loving the other, especially the one we least expect, or even the one we

dislike. We are often like that Priest and the Levite, busy with good things, that cause us to ignore the best thing: LOVE IN ACTION.

Christianity at its core is a faith of interruption, where God's call often comes disguised as an inconvenient.

Therefore, the question for us is not who is my neighbor? But to whom can I be a neighbor? Eternal life begins not in Heaven, but HERE, when we allow the Love of God to flow through us to the wounded beside the road.

True faith doesn't avoid the broken; it stops, stoops down, and heals.

Like the Samaritan, may we see, feel, and act with Mercy, because in loving others, we find Christ, and in finding Christ, we find life.

What must I do to inherit eternal life? Go and do likewise.

May God bless us all. Amen